



## devil crayfish

*Cambarus diogenes*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Malacostraca
Order:	Decapoda

### Features

The devil crayfish has large claws covered with many bumps. The back may be reddish-brown to green with red outlines on the abdominal segments, tips of the claws, and the area between the eyes. Adults can range from three to 4 1/2 inches long.

### Natural History

The devil crayfish digs burrows near streams, ponds, and lakes. It is believed to eat plant materials. It burrows in timbered or formerly timbered areas along floodplains or streams. It piles mud balls into a chimney at the top of the burrow. Burrow openings along a stream usually lead to an underwater chamber and a second tunnel leads into the stream. Mating occurs in fall, late winter, or early spring in open water. About 300 eggs are laid per female.

### Habitats

Mississippi River; Missouri River; interior rivers and streams; natural lakes and prairie marshes; constructed lakes, ponds, and reservoirs; bottomland forests

### Iowa Status

common; native

### Iowa Range

scattered throughout Iowa in suitable habitats

### Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.